

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 26 are pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3, 8, 15-17, 19, 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Wu* (US 6,526,746) and *Otome et al.* (US 6,146,102).

Claims 1-4, 8, 15-17, 19, 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Weigl et al.* (US 6,513,323) and *Otome et al.* (US 6,146,102).

Claim 1 has been amended to include features of claims 3 and 4 and of allowable claim 5 so that the above rejections no longer apply.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 5-7, 9-14, 18, 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 3, 4, and 5 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including the features of claims 1 and 8 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including the features of claims 1 and 8 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

DRAWINGS

The examiner requested that formal drawings be submitted as allowable subject matter has been indicated. Replacement sheets Figs. 1 and 2 are submitted herewith for review.

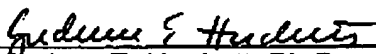
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on June 30, 2005,


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Encl.: - time extension petition + PTO-2038 (2 sheets)
- replacement drawing sheet/s Figs. 1 and 2 (2 sheet/s)

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